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Agenda item 73

Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session

Report of the First Committee (Part II)

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I. Introduction

1. At its resumed session, the First Committee continued its consideration of the item entitled "Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session".

II. Consideration of draft decision A/C.1/52/L.53

2. On 26 June 1998, *Algeria, Belarus, Croatia, Ecuador, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Luxembourg, Peru, South Africa, Spain, the Syrian Arab Republic* and *Uganda* submitted a draft decision entitled "Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session: Report of the Disarmament Commission" (A/C.1/52/L.53).

3. At the 25th meeting, on 29 June, the First Committee considered and adopted draft decision A/C.1/52/L.53 without a vote.

III. Recommendation of the First Committee

4. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

98-19287 (E) 060798

Report of the Disarmament Commission

The General Assembly, recalling its resolution 52/12 B of 19 December 1997 and bearing in mind the need to enhance the efficient functioning of the Disarmament Commission, decides that:

(a) The Disarmament Commission should continue to play a unique role within the mechanism on disarmament as the only body with universal membership for in-depth deliberation on relevant disarmament issues;

(b) As of the 2000 substantive session, the substantive agenda of the Disarmament Commission should normally comprise two agenda items per year from the whole range of disarmament issues, including one on nuclear disarmament. The possibility of a third agenda item would be retained if there were consensus to adopt such an item. Parallel meetings of the subsidiary bodies should be avoided;

(c) Annual substantive sessions of the Disarmament Commission should last for three weeks;

(d) Substantive agenda items should be considered in the Disarmament Commission for three years. Other options for the duration of consideration of an item, according to its specificity, may be adopted on an ad hoc basis by consensus;

(e) The regional groups should be urged to make possible an early election of the chairmen of the subsidiary bodies, preferably at the organizational session of the Commission in the fall, so as to allow them to conduct inter-sessional consultations on the respective subjects. It is desirable that continuity of chairmanship of the subsidiary bodies be maintained throughout the consideration of a substantive item;

(f) Further optimization of the Disarmament Commission procedures, according to circumstances, may be a continuing consensus-based process, *inter alia*, in the context of the review of United Nations disarmament machinery.